

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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AEMEMBASY BUDAPEST 2273

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRADE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO, UR, US, PL

SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS COMMENT ON MBFR TALKS RESUMPTION

REF MOSCOW 1206

1. SUMMARY. ZYCIE WARSZAWY ON JANUARY 28 CARRIED A
LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON MBFR
ALONG THE LINES OF THE IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY REPORTED IN
REF, ALTHOUGH POSSIBLY WITH MORE THAN THE USUAL POLISH

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STRESS ON BUNDESWEHR REDUCTIONS. AS WITH THE IZVESTIYA
PIECE, ZYCIE STRONGLY CRITICIZES THE LATEST NATO PROPO-

SALS ALONG STANDARD LINES, WITHOUT REJECTING THEM OUT-
RIGHT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ARTICLE, ENTITLED "FAIR PLAY VIENNESE STYLE,"
CONCENTRATES PRIMARILY ON NATO ALLEGED DE-
SIRE TO SEEK UNFAIR ADVANTAGE THROUGH
ASYMMETRY AND COLLECTIVE CEILINGS. GOING SOMEWHAT FUR-
THER THAN USUAL IN DETAILING NATO POSITIONS, THE ARTICLE
NOTES THAT NATO TRIES TO DEMONSTRATE A MILITARY PREPON-
DERANCE OF THE WARSAW PACT IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY ITS
CALL FOR ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTION AND TO UNDERMINE THE
PRINCIPLE OF PRESERVING THE EXISTING FORCE BALANCE. THE
ARTICLE FURTHER CRITICIZES THE COMMON-CEILINGS CONCEPT
FOR FAILING TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED TO REDUCE NA-
TIONAL FORCES AND ALLEGEDLY ALLOWING CERTAIN WESTERN
STATES TO INCREASE THEIR INDIVIDUAL FORCE LEVELS. THE
ARTICLE SINGLES OUT THE BUNDESWEHR AND
IN ITS CONCLUDING PASSAGES,
AGAIN ACCUSES NATO OF RELUCTANCE TO REDUCE WEST GERMAN
LAND FORCES.

3. THE ARTICLE NEVERTHELESS DELCARES THAT THE WARSAW
PACT WILL STUDY THE NATO PROPOSALS CAREFULLY IN A
SPIRIT OF LEXIBILITY AND "UNDERSTANDING OF CERTAIN
ELEMENTS" OF THE WESTERN POSITION. IT THUS SEEMS TO
HOLD THE DOOR OPEN AT LEAST FOR PERFUNC-
TORY CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSALS.
DAVIES

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